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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1835)

Name of Candidate	AYAN JAIN		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	1040520
Center	ONLINE	Date	23/8/22

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH**
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. The withdrawal of general consent to the CBI by certain state governments in India threatens the spirit of cooperative federalism in India. Discuss. (150 words) 10

CBI is the central/apex agency for crime investigation in India.

Types of Consent → General / Case-Specific

In general consent, CBI can freely investigate any case without requiring case-wise consent.

How withdrawal of general consent to CBI threatens cooperative federalism

① Impedes crime investigation process which has consequences across India.

② CBI is a centre-level body which needs states' cooperation for proper functioning.

③ CBI also looks into cases of corruption which is crucial for centre-state relations.

④ The constitution states that state governments should function without hampering the Union government's work

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(5) Spoils the relations and harmony between centre and state.

(6) Breaks the synergy required between different crime agencies.

(7) Forces the centre to take coercive actions (eg Article 365)

(8) Can potentially lead to President's rule in the state (A356 / A365)

(9) Centre has duty to ensure the proper working of state governments (A355) for which CBI is necessary.

(10) It shows unwillingness of states to cooperate with centre

(11) Puts political differences up.

(12) Prioritizes state interests above national ones.

Sarathavam committee's recommendations can be followed to boost CBI's role in cooperative federalism.

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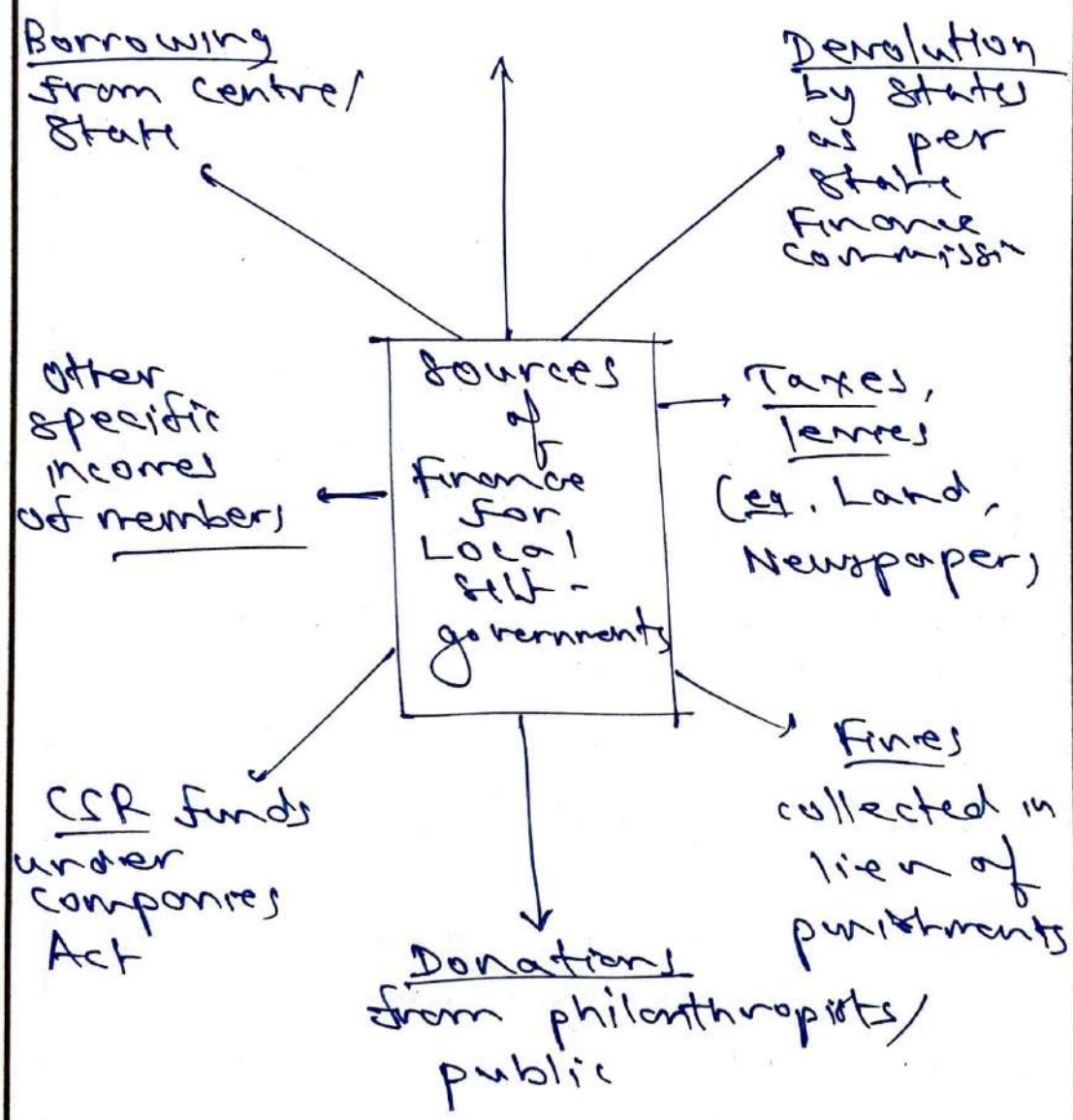
2. Stating the sources of finance for local self-governments in India, suggest ways to strengthen their financial position. **(150 words) 10**

Local self-governments are constitutionally mandated (Part IX, IXA from A243 to 243ZT).

However, they are able to generate only 5% of funds.



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Ways to strengthen the financial position of local self-government

1. Make it mandatory for state governments to devolve funds (Presently, states decide).
2. Increase taxation powers.
3. Income from rent / government enterprises to accrue to them
4. CSR funds can be mandatorily earmarked (fixed %) for them
5. centre should regularly check which districts require more funding.
6. Voluntary donations from people by mobilizing public.
7. Foreign aid and investments
8. funds from Public Accounts to be divided between centre, state and Local level.
9. Increase penalizing powers.

Local-level is the grassroots of democracy. SUMIT BOSE committee and BALWANTRAI MEHTA committees recommendations can be followed.

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3. Cabinet Committees play an important role in reinstating collective responsibility and principle of homogeneity of the Executive in the Indian Parliamentary system. Elucidate. (150 words) 10

Cabinet Committees are set up for important issues like Defence, Economy etc and comprise the Cabinet ministers.

How Cabinet committees help in reinstating collective responsibility

① They comprise the leaders of the government who represent entire government

② They scrutinize the decisions and actions of the government.

③ They prevent major mistakes by any minister.

④ They regulate the working of the entire government.

⑤ The entire government is responsible for the decisions of any minister, so these committees analyze them

⑥ They reinforce that the decisions of any minister are those of entire government

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How cabinet Committees help in reinstating homogeneity of executive

① The members of these committees are all from the ruling party.

② They comprise the most trusted and qualified ministers.

③ They ensure that work / decisions of any minister are aligned to the entire government

④ They scrutinize all decisions of all ministries.

⑤ They harmonize the actions / visions of different parts of the government.

⑥ They reinforce the party's ideologies thus homogenizing all members of executive.

Cabinet committees should be further empowered and should meet regularly for a more effective parliament.

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4. There is a need to overhaul the public procurement and project management (PPPM) framework of India for faster, efficient and transparent execution of government projects. Comment. **(150 words) 10**

'Good Governance' as described by WORLD BANK also includes an Efficient government which is transparent and finishes all projects timely.

Need to overhaul the public procurement and project management framework (PPPM) for faster, efficient, transparent execution of projects

- → Prevent delays in execution
- → Eliminate time and cost overruns.
- → Make procurement more transparent.
- → To promote 'Make in India' in procurement.
  (eg. Defence – Positive List)
- → For better monitoring of ongoing projects
  (eg. PRAGATI portal)

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- For grievance redressal of citizens (eg. CPGRAMS)
- For better service delivery.
- To empower citizens.
- To minimize wastage of resources
- For better budgetary planning and allocation.
- To meet the goals of Welfare State (Article 38)
- To speed up long-term projects (eg. Infrastructure: Gati Shakti)
- For coordination between different agencies (eg. National Infrastructure pipeline)
- To promote domestic industries and private sector
- To increase public participation (Jan Bhagidari)
- To fix accountability.

These changes can help create a SARVASHRESHTHA BHARAT.

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5. Adequate measures are required to overcome the challenges and vulnerabilities associated with undertaking social accountability initiatives and institutionalising them. Elaborate. **(150 words) 10**

Social accountability refers to participation of PUBLIC in ensuring accountability of the government
(eg. Mandatory Social AUDIT in MGNREGA)

Challenges of undertaking and institutionalizing social accountability

① People lack experience of governance.
② Prevalent illiteracy renders many incapable.
③ Few have will or time to engage.
④ Possible corruption / nexus.
⑤ Must prevent nepotism / partiality
⑥ People have to be empowered and made fearless.
⑦ It might become counter-productive due to uninformed opinion of people.
⑧ Lack of transparency.

Measures required to overcome these challenges

① Education even for adults (eg. National Adult Literacy mission)
② Incentivizing public participation (eg. Salary/monetary rewards)
③ Simplify the procedures.
④ Appeal to public.
⑤ Complaint-system must be seamless (eg. CPGRAMS)
⑥ Citizens charter should be mandated for every service/project.
⑦ Work must be made transparent
⑧ All records should be easily accessible (eg. RTI, Bhoomi portal of Karnataka)
⑨ Training and Capacity-building of people (eg. Workshops)

Social accountability is key to ensuring a government OF and BY the people

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6. In view of the recent Parliamentary Standing Committee report, discuss the issues faced by the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) and suggest measures that can be adopted to strengthen it. **(150 words) 10**

Recently, a parliamentary standing committee was tasked to look into issues of NCST to improve its functioning.

Issues faced by the NCST as per the REPORT

1. Lack of funds to carry out duties.
2. Inadequate staff.
3. Many members lack expertise.
4. Lack of qualified data.
5. Large diversity of issues among STs. ~~tribals~~
6. Incoherence between state and centre in policies of STs.
7. Huge population of STs, some not demographically mapped.
8. Government interference and lack of autonomy

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Measures to strengthen the NCST

1. Research scholars in the field of STs should be part of NCST.
2. Greater budgetary allocation
3. Suo Motu powers should be given
4. It should be consulted more often.
5. If opinion of NCST is not followed, reasons should be stated.
6. Increased staff.
7. Use of technology (ICT) to collect data.
8. Should be given powers to punish.
9. The SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act should include specific punishments and functions

NCST can play major role in ST development and INCLUSIVE GROWTH.

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7. While the Mid-Day Meal scheme was aimed at fulfilling the nutritional needs of students, it is far behind in achieving this objective. Discuss. Also, suggest remedial measures in this context. **(150 words) 10**

SDG 2 aims at zero hunger and SDG 3 talks about good health. The MDM scheme aimed to achieve both these SDGs, as well as to increase Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) and attendance.

MDM is far behind in achieving objective

- As per SOFI report (State of food and nutrition), India is among the worst.
- Prevalence of malnutrition (NHFS-5)
- Micro-nutrition is a major issue.
- Wasting, stunting is common.
- School attendance is also very low.
- The families in BPL are not able to access MDM.
- Quality of food is bad (eg. Non-fortified) and often unhygienic (eg. Presence of insects)

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Remedial measures for MDM

1. Involve private sector as food producers / caterers.
2. Increase budgetary allocation for the scheme.
3. Use nutrient-rich and cost-effective foods like coarse cereals.
4. Diversify meals to ensure balanced diet.
5. Employ food fortification (ex. MUKTOSHRI rice)
6. Ensure attendance of all students via monitoring.
7. Focus not only on food availability but also nutritional outcomes.

The POSHAN scheme can complement MDM and ensure that malnutrition is overcome

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8. Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) remain critical for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this context, discuss the impediments in the fulfilment of SRHR in India. Also, mention the steps that can be taken in this regard. **(150 words) 10**

In light of the recent change in USA's Roe v/s Wade judgement, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) have come to limelight.

SRHR critical for SDGs
- → SDG 3 : Health
- → SDG 5 : Gender equality
- → SDG 11 : Sustainability

Impediments in SRHR fulfilment

1. Lack of awareness especially in rural areas.
2. Taboo on topic of sexual health.
3. Lack of medical facilities.
4. Inadequate health infrastructure (eg. Hospitals in remote areas)
5. Lack of experts in the field (Gynecologists)
6. Women not treated equally, especially in rural areas.
7. Out-of-pocket expenditure

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(OOP) is very high and unaffordable.

(8) Regular check-ups are not feasible for most people.

(9) Lack of contraceptives.

Steps to improve SRHR

(1) Increase awareness by conducting workshops.

(2) Menstrual and reproductive health discuss in schools.

(3) Promote institutional delivery (eg. Janani Suraksha Yojana)

(4) RCH centres (Reproductive and Child health) should be in every district.

(5) Out-patient care of mothers (eg. Maitru Vandana Yojana)

(6) Maternity leave (eg. AA2)

(7) Sexual health advertisements

(8) Remove taboo on sexual health

SRHR is a must for women empowerment and preventing diseases.

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9. State the functions of the United Nations Human Rights Council. Also, discuss the issues faced by the Council in the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. **(150 words) 10**

The UNHRC is one of the six principal organs of the UN and plays role in promoting human rights across the globe.

FUNCTIONS of UNHRC

1. Ensure all countries are promoting human rights.
2. Monitoring the violation of human rights (eg. China)
3. Carrying out initiatives for promoting human rights
4. Building global consensus regarding human rights
5. Increasing the scope and ambit of human rights
6. Trying to institutionalise human rights in countries by legislative backing.

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Issues faced by UNHRC in protection and promotion of Human Rights across globe

1. Non-cooperative governments (eg. Taliban)
2. cannot impinge on sovereignty of nation.
3. All countries put security above human rights (eg. Preventive Detention)
4. Lack of data and money for scrutinizing countries.
5. countries disobey / ignore the directives of UNHRC (eg. China)
6. Non-transparent functioning and West-dominated body so not trusted by all

The UN Declaration on Human Rights (UNDHR) should be a guide for all nations' constitution.

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10. West Asia is an important strategic region for India with profound geo-political and geo-economic significance. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

West-Asia comprises countries like Iran, Iraq, Turkey and also the CAR nations like Uzbekistan.

India has so far not tapped the potential in these nations.

Geo-political significance of West Asia

- → Bridge between Europe and Asia.
- → connectivity from Asia to Europe.
- → Iran has strained relations with USA.
- → Iran and Turkey are major military powers.
- → Iran has nuclear power.
- → Location of these countries is central between USA and Indian Ocean.
- → Political systems in these

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nations are undergoing change

Geo-economic significance of West Asia

- Huge trade potential.
- Connectivity with Europe can be harnessed for trade.
- Cheaper arms supply.
- Shorter shipping routes.
- Energy security (eg. TAPI pipeline)
- Energy diversification prevents dependence on Russia.
- Raw material availability
- Market for finished goods.
- Minerals / Resources
  eg. Crude Oil, Natural Gas.
- Investments in infrastructure will counter China's BRI.

Relations with West Asia can help India become a global leader. Chabahar Port etc should be sped up.

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11. Disenfranchising prisoners desecrates a cherished value in a democracy i.e. 'right to vote', which should be guarded earnestly. Discuss in the light of The Representation of The People Act, 1951. **(250 words) 15**

Recently there has been debate regarding extending POSTAL BALLOT / Proxy voting to prisoners.

RPA 1951 in this regard
- → Imprisonment leads to disqualification of candidates.
- → Prisoners are NOT allowed to vote
- → Gives list of other cases where Right to vote is not there.

Why disenfranchising prisoners desecrates Right to vote

① Most of the prisoners are undertrials (NCRB data) so may not even be guilty.

② Many others are in prison for petty crimes which doesn't make them a big liability / criminal.

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(3) Prisoners too are human and normal functioning members of society.

(4) Universal Adult Franchise (A324, 326) doesn't discriminate between prisoners.

(5) A person's being found guilty may not be an express indicator of morality.

(6) They can contribute to improving the polity.

(7) Prisoners will be back outside too and will live under the government, so must be given say/choice.

(8) Potentially can be misused by parties to imprison people who dissent or speak against government.

(9) Society has all kinds of people, and harmony and equality is important.

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(10) Article 14 (equality of all before the law) extends to Right to vote.

Why Right to vote must be safeguarded

(1) It is necessary for a vibrant democracy.

(2) Ensures Universal Adult Franchise (Article 324, 326)

(3) Ensures a government BY the people and OF the people.

(4) It allows Diverse and comprehensive opinions.

(5) Will help in deepening of democracy.

(6) choice of government is the cornerstone of democracy.

Exploring PROXY VOTING for prisoners who are undertrial or for non-serious crimes can help. Guidelines in the LILY THOMAS case and AMITAV ROY committee can help

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12. There are similarities and interactions between the affirmative action adopted by India and USA owing to similar historical injustices faced by their respective vulnerable groups. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

Affirmative action refers to taking steps towards the upliftment of backward and vulnerable sections to bring them at par with others

eg. Reservation for SC/STs.
eg. Lower fees for women.
eg. Incentives for girl child.
eg. Garima Greh for transgenders

Similarities between affirmative action and interactions in India and USA

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① Both give fundamental rights which includes protection of the weakest.

② Prevent discrimination and take active steps towards creating a harmonious society. (eg. USA : Black, India : AIT)

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(3) Reservations for backward classes in government and education

(4) Incentives for women empowerment

(5) Monetary benefits for the poor (eg. No tax below an income level)

(6) Welfare schemes and programs (eg. India – MGNREGS
USA – Work programmes)

(7) Scholarships in Education for poor and backward (eg. Merit-cum-means)

(8) Political empowerment by reserving seats in parliament.

(9) Economic empowerment.

(10) Preserving dignity of the downtrodden (eg. ACI, SMILE scheme)

(11) India borrowed features from USA's Bill of Rights.

(12) USA learned a lot from India's welfare schemes.

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How there are to similar historic injustice by vulnerable groups

① Discrimination in society
eg. India - SC/STs / Dalits
USA - Blacks
② Economic hardships.
③ Lack of opportunities to grow.
④ No voice in government.
⑤ vast inequalities.
⑥ Lack of political will or government focus.
⑦ Social boycott
⑧ Inferior treatment.
⑨ Segregation of society
(eg. Lower castes weren't allowed to drink water from some wells)

Affirmative action is key to upliftment of the weak, and learning from each other can improve situation of both India and USA.

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13. Objections to domicile-based reservation in private sector jobs on the grounds of constitutional equality and freedom are misplaced. Critically discuss. (250 words) 15

The recent decision to reserve seats for locals in employment of private sector jobs by HARYANA has sparked debates and objections.

Arguments FOR domicile-based reservation in private sector

① Each state should improve the condition of its people.
② Lack of availability of jobs creates frustration and social unrest.
③ Often jobs require an experience of having lived in that state.
④ Some states are more backward than others and need to protect their interests.
⑤ Some states are much more

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populated but not have enough jobs.

(6) When people from other states take up jobs in a state, it creates resentment.

(7) Reserving can prevent such inter-state issues

(8) Will reduce inequity between states.

(9) People are more motivated when working in own state.

(10) Will reduce corruption

Arguments AGAINST reserving jobs (domicile) in private sector

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(1) Populist tendencies.

(2) Can aggravate regionalism

(3) 'Son of Soils' phenomenon

(4) Can affect national unity and fraternity.

(5) May not be best for nation.

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(6) Only the Parliament can provide for such reservation, so these are unconstitutional

(7) Article 14 says all people in India must be treated equally.

(8) A15, 16 apply for public employment not private.

(9) Reservation may affect efficiency and output of private sector.

(10) Diverse people in private sector boosts the firm.

(11) It can be seen as interference by government in private sector / excessive regulation

(12) Many private sector firms operate at multi-state level.

The decision should be halted and multi-stakeholder meetings should be done to build consensus.

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14. There have been arguments that sedition law is an attack on the very foundation of India's liberal democratic principles, as enshrined in the Constitution. Do you agree? **(250 words) 15**

Sedition Law is provided for in IPC Sec 124 A (Indian Penal Code) and has been there since 1870.

I agree that sedition law is an attack on democratic principles, but it is still necessary.

Why sedition Law is considered attack on foundation of democratic principles

① It goes against freedom of speech and expression (A(19)(a))

② Prevents dissent and constructive feedback which is at core of democracy.

③ Can be misused by the party in power, violating A14 (Rule of Law — A V Dicey)

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(4) Gives arbitrary powers to the government.

(5) Restricts public participation which is must for democracy.

(6) Is considered harsh and draconian
(eg. Britain repealed it recently)

(7) Reduces the social accountability that active citizens played.

(8) Abridges freedom and liberty of individuals (Preamble, A21).

(9) It is a colonial legacy
(eg. Tilak was arrested under IPC)

Why Sedition Law is still important for nation

(1) For National security, to prevent any anti-national elements from acting.

(2) To prevent anti-India sentiments from rising
(to preserve unity and integrity)

(3) To prevent unnecessary

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criticism of government which hampers development.

(4) To prevent propaganda and indoctrination against the government or the country.

(5) To prevent hate speech or communal incitement.

(6) It can protect the social order and harmony of society.

(7) Prevents riots and other Law and order issues

WAY FORWARD

- Triple test of sedition in KEDARNATH case.
- Guidelines of ROMESH THAPAR case
- Distinguish sedition from harmless dissent

Balance security with freedom and democratic principles.

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15. Despite Government e-Marketplace facing certain challenges, it has brought about a significant improvement in the procurement of goods and services by various government agencies. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) was established for procurement in government matters as well as to boost Make in India and self-reliance.

Challenges of GeM

1. Slow transactions / procurement
2. Time and cost overruns
3. Non-transparent mechanism
4. Possible partiality in the transactions (eg. Tenders)
5. Inadequate digital interface.
6. Frequent crashes of server.
7. Government staff is not adept at ICT.

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(8) Prevalence of corruption
(9) Mostly it is in English language only.
(10) The interface is not user-friendly.

Improvement in procurement by government due to GeM

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(1) Brought all goods and services on a unified platform.
(2) Increased choice availability
(3) Allows price discovery and opting for most efficient option.
(4) Digital interface saves redundant efforts.
(5) Faster than manual procurement
(6) More transparent than non-digital

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(7) Timely completion of projects is possible.
(8) Impetus to domestic manufacturers (eg. MSMEs)
(9) Push to Make In India
(10) Lower corruption.
(11) Records are maintained which increases the accountability.
(12) Financial propriety of the government as a whole.
(13) Increased participation of private sector.
(14) Efficiency and effectiveness of the agencies has improved.

Thus, while GeM has some challenges, it has made major progress and has huge potential towards DIGITAL INDIA.

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16. A reformed system of recruitment, training and evaluation needs to be put in place to take forward the development of a highly efficient and accountable civil service. Discuss in the context of India. (250 words) 15

"The Civil Services forms the steel frame of India"
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

As agents of socio-economic transformation of India, the civil servants must themselves be highly trained and adept.

Need of a reformed system of training, recruitment and evaluation

① Recruitment process should ensure selection of persons as is aligned to needs/demand of civil service.

② Modern times require expertise in ICT.

③ Civil servants must be sensitized, and there should not be any elitism

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(4) Regular evaluation will incentivize continuous performance.

(5) A system of rewards and punishment to keep check.

(6) Public management skills need to be imbibed.

(7) In present system there is still overhang of old times.

(8) Innovation has to be valued.

(9) Civil services must be efficient and effective.

(10) Evaluation on key parameters like efficiency, punctuality etc

(11) Feedback can help analyze areas of improvement for civil servants.

(12) Recruitment should focus on mindset and dedication.

(13) Personality and adaptability of person should be given

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high weightage of marks.

(14) Solution-oriented civil servants are a must, to solve problems of society.

(15) Evaluation system itself must get updated regularly owing to changing times (eg. Digitization)

(16) Training should also be in soft skills like leadership, communication skills

(17) Recruitment process should be rigorous to ensure tenacity

(18) The civil servants must be responsible and proactive.

(19) Evaluation be linked to promotion.

Mission Karmyogi is a step in this direction; Recommendations of HOTA committee and BASWAN committee are also crucial.

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17. Despite initiatives taken by the Indian government to achieve critical goals in the education sector, major interventions are required to tackle learning poverty as well as the persisting inequalities. Discuss. (250 words) 15

World Bank highlighted that the pandemic caused 'Learning Loss' which may aggravate Learning poverty and persisting inequalities.

Education ⟷ SDG 4

Initiatives taken by government for education

- Online free courses like SWAYAM, MOOCS.
- Repository of free digital content (eg. DIKSHA, eGyankosh)
- National Education Policy (NEP 2020) with focus on Yoga etc.
- Teacher training (eg. NISHTHA)
- Improving school infrastructure.
- Focusing on learning outcomes (eg. PISA)

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Despite this, need of intervention to overcome learning loss and persisting inequalities

1. Literacy levels vary across states (eg. Kerala > 90%)
2. Most teachers are not well-trained.
3. Lack of schools in rural areas.
4. Learning outcomes are still very poor (ASER study by PRATHAM)
5. Academia-Industry mismatch leading to joblessness.
6. Public schools are not as good quality as private.
7. Affordability issue with private schools.
8. Lack of moral education
9. Curriculum is not diverse (As NEP suggested)
10. Need of multidisciplinarity

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(11) Skilling has to be done in conjunction with education (eg. coding skills)

(12) Innovation has to be imbibed (eg. Atal Innovation Mission)

(13) Standardized system of education needed (eg. CBSE, ICSE, State boards)

(14) Examinations should not only test memory but application of understanding.

(15) Literacy and numeracy skills are important (Eg. NIPUN)

(16) Inequalities can be reduced with increased education opportunities

(17) Education spread will help uplift backward classes.

Education system must be reformed; Recommendations of KOTHARI committee can be used.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

18. In light of the burgeoning burden of both communicable and non-communicable diseases, there is a need to revamp the public health surveillance system in India. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

~~NCD (Centre~~ National Centre for non-communicable diseases (NCDC) has pointed out alarming threat due to both communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Communicable diseases } Viral, HIV, Dengue, Malaria, AIDS / STDs, Jaundice

Cardiac risks, hypertension, stress, diabetes, blood pressure, cholestrol } Non-communicable diseases

Need to revamp health surveillance system in this light

① Diagnosis of diseases to be done early to prevent spread.

② Early detection can lead to easy cures.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

③ Monitoring can prevent viral outbreaks (eg. COVID-19)

④ Studying long-term effects can help come up with remedial measures

⑤ Data on diseases can help create vaccines.

⑥ Non-communicable diseases can be mapped to lifestyles (eg. Role of walking in curing diabetes)

⑦ Regular health check-ups should be mandatory.

⑧ Out-patient care should be institutionalized to ensure treatment is complete

⑨ Tele-medicine initiatives like eSanjeevani to monitor health.

⑩ Genetic modifications/mutations can be tracked.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(11) Data repository of diseases is inadequate as of now.

(12) Better surveillance will allow testing of traditional medicines (eg. AYUSH)

(13) Side-effects of treatments can be monitored.

(14) Slow-onset-non-communicable diseases can be studied.

(15) Diseases can be eradicated in mission mode (eg. Polio, Small Pox)

(16) To keep in check emerging outbreaks (eg. Monkey Pox, Tomato Pox)

Thus, public health surveillance needs to be revamped. Apps like AAROGYA SETU can play a major role.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

19. The repercussions of the ongoing economic crisis in Sri Lanka extend beyond its borders. Discuss with specific reference to India. Also, mention the steps that India has taken to assist Sri Lanka tide over the crisis.

(250 words) 15

Sri Lankan economy has gone into crisis owing to rising fuel prices, global inflation, Ukraine-Russia war as well as lockdowns as it was a Tourism Economy.

How Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka extends to other countries like India

① Trade with Sri Lanka goes down.

② Investments in Sri Lanka are lost.

③ Non-recovery of debts to Sri Lanka.

④ Interdependent economies (sale/purchase etc) causes slowdowns in others.

⑤ Joblessness can cause social

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

unrest and riots

(6) As Sri Lanka has many Tamils, the crisis affects sentiments of Indian Tamils

(7) Possible migrant crisis as people may come to India

(8) Potential security issues for India due to growing joblessness.

(9) Affects regional growth.

(10) Reduced connectivity between different countries.

(11) Diaspora of other countries is affected (many Indians live in Sri Lanka)

(12) Remittances reduced (eg. from Sri Lanka to India)

Steps that India has taken to assist Sri Lanka

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

① Extended line of credit
② Donations and aid from private firms.
③ Providing essential food and medical supplies.
④ Helping control the law and order situation.
⑤ controlling the pandemic by vaccine supply.
⑥ Diplomacy assistance.
⑦ Policy suggestions by experts
⑧ Extended the time / deadline of debt recovery.
⑨ Helping in infrastructure creation in Sri Lanka
⑩ Supporting Sri Lanka in getting international aid.

Thus, Sri Lanka economic crisis has repercussions for other countries thus we must help them.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

20. India is a reliable partner in the Indian Ocean Region and can take on the role of being the net security provider in the region. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

The Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is growing in importance and geo-political significance.

India's aim of SAGAR: Security and Growth for All in the Region is to be a net security provider in the IOR.

India as a reliable partner and net security provider in IOR

① India is the major / biggest country of the region.

② Geographic location of India gives it a central importance in the IOR.

③ India always aimed for development of the entire region / neighborhood (eg. Gujral Doctrine)

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(4) India has a strong Navy and Coast Guard.

(5) India has started conferences of security in IOR (eg. Goa Maritime Conclave)

(6) India is leader at IORA and IONS.

(7) India carries out patrol and defence exercises with others in this region (eg Exercise Malabar ← India, USA, Japan)

(8) The International Fusion Centre (IFC-IOR) is headquartered at Gurugram.

(9) Project MAUSAM to build / harness cultural links of all countries in IOR.

(10) CDRI (Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure) puts

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

IOR in focus, to overcome tsunamis, cyclones etc.

(11) Counter-terrorism and anti-piracy measures.

(12) Anti-smuggling (eg. from the golden triangle).

(13) To boost trade in the region.

(14) Improving connectivity (eg. IMT trilateral highway)

(15) Shipping routes can be explored.

(16) overcome China's 'String of Pearls' by 'Double Fish Hook Policy'

(17) Protect strategic and military interests of all. (eg. Diego Garcia)

(18) For national security.

Thus, India should increase its focus on the IOR as it offers a chance for India to take lead.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1836)

Name of Candidate	AYAN JAIN		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENG	Registration Number	1040520
Center	ONLINE	Date	19/8/22

3 hours ~~9:00 - 11:58 AM~~

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
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8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
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16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. **Contextual Competence**
2. **Content Competence**
3. **Language Competence**
4. **Introduction Competence**
5. **Structure - Presentation Competence**
6. **Conclusion Competence**

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. The PM-AASHA scheme is aimed at improving procurement mechanism as well as ensuring remunerative prices for farmers. In this context, highlight the various components of the scheme and discuss the concerns associated with it. **(150 words) 10**

पीएम-आशा योजना का उद्देश्य खरीद तंत्र में सुधार के साथ-साथ किसानों के लिए लाभकारी मूल्य सुनिश्चित करना है। इस संदर्भ में, योजना के विभिन्न घटकों को रेखांकित कीजिए तथा इससे जुड़ी चिंताओं पर चर्चा कीजिए।

The National food security Act 2013 has laid out many objectives for procurement and farmer support. PM-AASHA is one such scheme.

Components of PM-AASHA

1. Transparent mechanism to procure food grains
2. Minimum wastage of grains.
3. Improved storage and transport facilities.
4. Reduced role of middlemen.
5. Remunerative pricing for farmers as per the central Issue Price (CIP)

This ensures farmers get maximum pricing, and food security needs of India are met in buffer too.

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Concerns associated with PM-AASHA

① Administrative leakages : presence of corruption and malpractices
Hoarding, Adulteration

② Price support to farmers is inadequate.

③ Lack of targeting of beneficiaries (eg. Poor farmers should get more benefit)

④ Questions are raised at the transparency.

⑤ centralized mechanism which also causes conflict between centre and state (federal issues)

⑥ Burden on government's fiscal exchequer due to inefficiencies.

⑦ Overlapping schemes : redundancy

Recommendations of ASHOK DALWAI committee and M S SWAMINATHAN committee will help ensure SDG 2 : No hunger.

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

2. Explaining the concept of blended finance, discuss the role it can play in mobilizing capital for infrastructure development in developing countries like India.

(150 words) 10

मिश्रित वित्त की अवधारणा की व्याख्या करते हुए, भारत जैसे विकासशील देशों में अवसंरचना विकास हेतु पूंजी जुटाने में इसकी भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Blended finance refers to mix of finance from government and private sources

eg. [Co-lending] model where NBFCs and Public Sector Banks together lend money.

Role blended finance can play in mobilizing capital for infrastructure development in developing countries

① It ensures enhanced liquidity and credit distribution.
eg. No more liquidity crunch

② Can serve as fiscal stimulus to dying industries
eg. DISCOMS.

③ Low rate of interest especially for long-term lending will boost investment in infrastructure

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④ Risk sharing models will further incentivise infrastructure projects.

⑤ Will give a boost to Public-Private-Partnerships (PPPs)

⑥ Ensure last-mile-accessibility of credit
eg. Rural areas.

⑦ Diverse lending arrangements will be feasible
eg. Installments, Annuities

⑧ Will have a Multiplier effect since infrastructure creation also lead to employment.

⑨ Will allow government to increase spending on Welfare and Social sector.

⑩ Clearances and regulatory hurdles can be eased
eg. Regulation Review Authority

KELKAR Committee's guidelines on PPP will serve as guide light for blended finance.

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

3. Discuss the challenges faced in the revival and revamp of dry ports in India and state the measures that can be adopted in this regard.

(150 words) 10

भारत में शुष्क पत्तनों (ड्राई पोर्ट्स) के पुनरुद्धार और सुधार में आने वाली चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए तथा इस संबंध में अपनाए जाने वाले उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Dry Ports refer to ports which are situated inland rather than on coast / rivers.

Challenges faced in the revival and revamp of dry ports

1. Insufficient utilization of dry ports
2. Pressure on already burdened resources
3. Riverine ports are already developed so more in use.
4. Lack of political focus.
5. Environmental issues and clearances (eg. EIA)
6. Land acquisition issues
7. Increasing use of trucks and rail as alternative.

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Measures that can be adopted to revamp and revive dry ports

1. Increased use of inland waterways.
2. clear policy roadmap on use of dry ports. (eg. Vision statement)
3. Involve private sector in PPP model.
4. Increase role of ports Trust Authority with regard to maintenance.
5. International collaboration to develop a few major dry ports
6. Increase road and rail connectivity with riverine ports.
7. Increased investment (eg. FDI) and budgetary allocation for shipping sector.

HONG KONG CONVENTION on shipping has potential to make ports more sustainable and economically viable

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

4. Monoculture is one of the major threats to ensuring food security and sustainability of Indian agriculture. Discuss. (150 words) 10
एकल कृषि (मोनोकल्चर) खाद्य सुरक्षा और भारतीय कृषि की संधारणीयता सुनिश्चित करने के समक्ष विद्यमान प्रमुख खतरों में से एक है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Monoculture is the practice of planting only one type of crop in the entire field.

Reasons for monoculture
- commercial crops (eg. Tea)
- Easy to grow
- Climatic conditions may only allow one crop.

How monoculture is a major threat to food security and sustainability of Indian agriculture

① Monoculture focuses on the commercial crops like Tea, coffee plantations.

② Reduces incentive to plant food crops.

③ Makes the crop fields more vulnerable to pest attacks. eg. Locust attacks.

④ Depletes the soil of the same nutrients repeatedly.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

⑤ Soil becomes infertile and difficult to replenish.

⑥ Efficiency / Throughput of yield decreases over time.

⑦ Multicrop fields are a more stable ecosystem than a monoculture field.

⑧ Different kinds of food grains are needed for Nutritional security and good health (SDG 3)

⑨ Many monoculture crops are highly water-intensive which depletes groundwater.

⑩ Emissions of Greenhouse gases are higher in such crops.

⑪ Total food availability can decrease.

FAO's warning about monoculture should be taken seriously, and crop-diversification and MIXED FARMING should be the aim.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

5. While highlighting the impact of single-use plastic on health and the environment, state the recent efforts taken by the government to curb plastic pollution in India. **(150 words) 10**

स्वास्थ्य और पर्यावरण पर एकल-उपयोग वाले प्लास्टिक के प्रभाव को रेखांकित करते हुए, भारत में प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण को रोकने के लिए सरकार द्वारा हाल ही में किए गए प्रयासों का उल्लेख कीजिए।

The recent amendment to Plastic Rules has completely banned the use of Single-Use Plastics (SUPs)

These SUPs are those plastics which cannot be reused and must be thrown immediately after one use.

Impact of SUPs on health and environment

① Plastic pollution increases.
② Most of this goes to oceans
→ Marine pollution.
③ Animals and humans can choke on plastic.
④ Many such SUPs contain toxic material.
⑤ Burning of such plastic releases harmful fumes.

Don't write anything in this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

6) Soil quality degrades which affects plant health.

7) The plastics often find their way into food due to negligence.

Recent efforts by government to curb plastic pollution

1) Amended the Plastic Rules.
- Ban on single-use plastics
- Increased thickness from 50 μm to 120 μm
- Extended Producer Responsibility on plastic manufacturers.

2) Signed UNEP pact to end plastic pollution.

3) Part of Global COMPACT.

4) Promotion of paper bags and JUTE ~~Khadi~~ (eg. Mandatory packing of foodgrains in Jute bags)

5) Clear policy stance on plastic

Plastic should be phased out and reusable alternatives should be prioritized.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

6. Aapda Mitra – a force of volunteers from across India trained in disaster response – is becoming a game changer in the field of disaster management in the country. Elaborate. (150 words) 10
आपदा मित्र-आपदा प्रतिक्रिया हेतु प्रशिक्षित भारत भर के स्वयंसेवकों का एक बल-देश में आपदा प्रबंधन के क्षेत्र में एक गेम चेंजर के रूप में उभर रहा है। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

AAPDA MITRA ("Friend in difficulty") is a force of non-government public volunteers to contribute to disaster response.

How AAPDA MITRA is becoming a game changer in Disarter Management in India

- community response is seen to be quicker than NDRF/SDRF.
- covers the inadequate force/ personnel of NDRF/SDRF.
- skilled volunteers are also trained well in ICT.
- Volunteers are actually more Trusted by the public.
- People cooperate willingly.
- Last-mile connectivity: The

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

volunteers reach even remote areas which takes time for officials.

→ Psychological and Trauma care is provided by the Aapda Mitras

→ Easier family reunitiny post-disaster.

→ contribute to future prevention of disasters as well.

→ Empowers people as active participants in field of disaster management

→ Donations to the volunteers ensures no burden on government resources.

→ They are seen to be more motivated and sensitive.

SENDAI Framework and HYOGO protocol both prioritize the role of community. Hence Aapda Mitras are a game changer.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

7. Why is the rise in lone wolf attacks considered as a serious challenge for security-agencies around the world? Highlight the role of the internet in exacerbating such attacks. (150 words) 10

विश्व भर में लोन वुल्फ हमलों में वृद्धि को सुरक्षा एजेंसियों के लिए एक गंभीर चुनौती क्यों माना जाता है? ऐसे हमलों की वृद्धि में इंटरनेट की भूमिका पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Lone-wolf attacks refers to standalone terror/violence events which are not a part of any larger organization or series of events.

Why Lone-wolf attacks are a serious challenge for security agencies around the world

① Anonymity since there is a single attacker.

② Difficult to track.

③ Trans-national nature creates diplomatic issues.

④ No history / previous intel on these attackers.

⑤ They can go unnoticed even in public arenas and cause lot of damage.

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⑥ Often they are suicide attacks without fear of repercussions

⑦ Huge access to weapons (eg. USA gun laws)

Role of internet in exacerbating lone-wolf attacks

① Easy indoctrination by terror outfits. (eg ISIS)

② Youth is exposed to violence and terror content online.

③ Dark Web allows purchase of dangerous weapons.

④ Poses a threat to Critical Information Infrastructure (eg Hacking)

⑤ People can easily learn how to create weapons (eg Bombs).

⑥ Information about public gatherings and vulnerabilities

A National ~~Sec~~ Security Doctrine with specific Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) for lone-wolf is needed.

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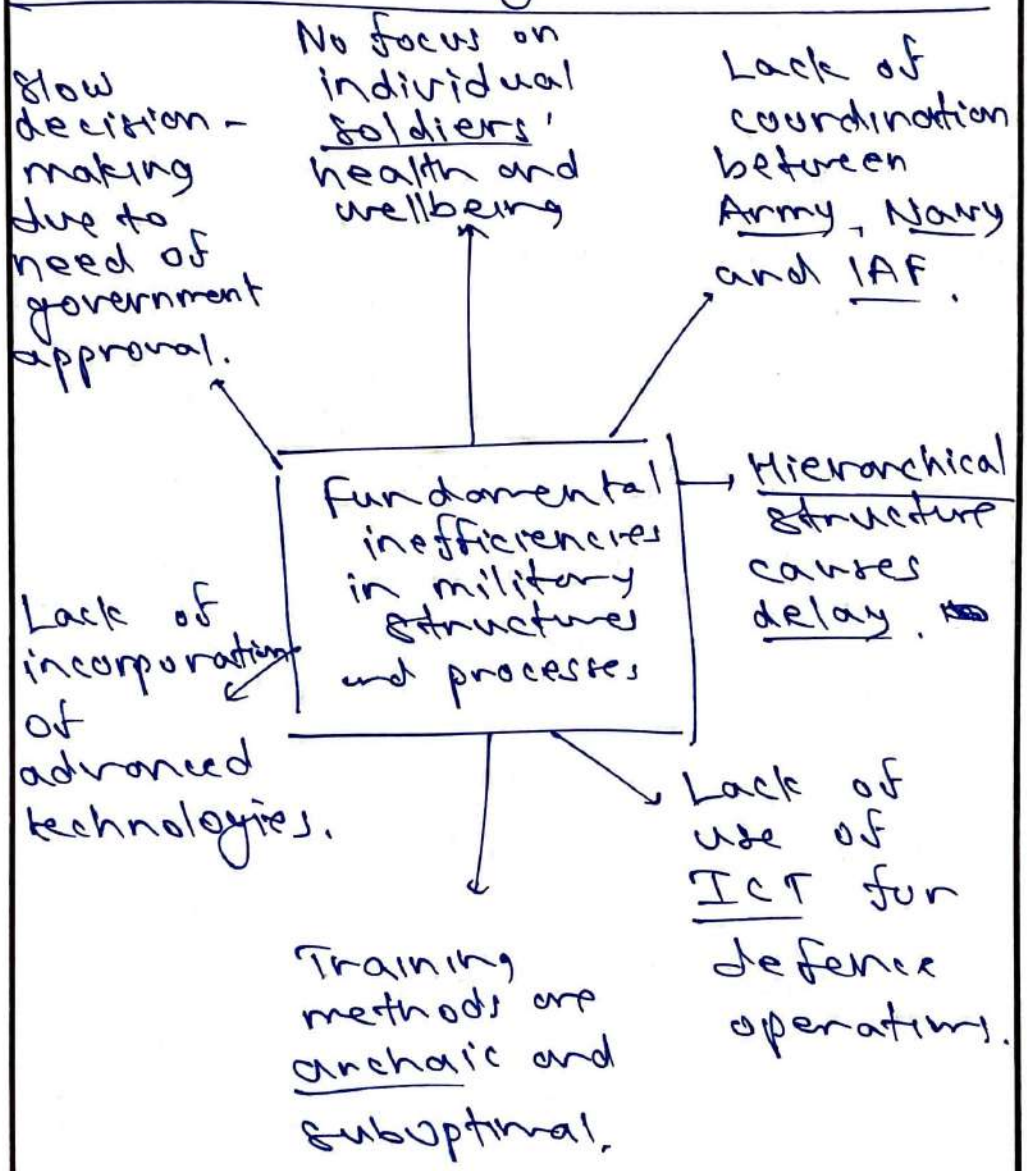
8. The fundamental inefficiencies embedded in our military structures and processes are now being addressed through a slew of defence reforms in the country. Discuss. (150 words) 10

हमारे सैन्य ढांचे और प्रक्रियाओं में अंतर्निहित मूलभूत अक्षमताओं को अब देश में विभिन्न रक्षा सुधारों के माध्यम से दूर किया जा रहा है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The last few years have seen major changes in Defence, to modernize it, enhance its capabilities, as well as prepare it for future exigencies.



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How defence reforms are addressing these issues

① Appointment of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) to unify the three forces and ease coordination.

② Modernization of the forces

③ Defence agreements with countries (eg. USA).

④ Indegenization of defence procurement (eg. "Positive List")

⑤ High quality equipment from Russia (S-400), Israel etc

⑥ Soldiers are being allowed education/courses.

⑦ Coordination between government and army has been greatly simplified.

⑧ A national security Doctrine is being evolved.

SHEKETKAR COMMITTEE on Defence reforms has played a major role in the reforms of military structures and processes

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

9. In light of the recent establishment of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in India, discuss the advantages and challenges in mainstreaming traditional medicine in the country. (150 words) 10

हाल ही में, भारत में डब्ल्यू. एच. ओ. ग्लोबल सेंटर फॉर ट्रेडिशनल मेडिसिन की स्थापना के आलोक में, देश में पारंपरिक चिकित्सा को मुख्यधारा में लाने के लाभों और चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Owing to the growing popularity and success of Traditional Medicine (eg. AYUSH) in India.

Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Sowa-Rigpa, Homeopathy

WHO established a global centre.

Advantages of mainstreaming traditional medicine

1. Increased solutions to problems not easily cured by medicines.
2. Alternatives to medicines can solve issue of unavailability of medicines (eg. During COVID-19)
3. Traditional medicine is a lot cheaper and easily available
4. No/low side-effects as compared to scientific drugs.
5. Increased recognition of Indian culture (eg. Soft Power)

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

⑥ Improved health outcomes and productivity of individuals (eg. Demographic Dividend)

⑦ Self-reliance.

⑧ Job opportunities in AYUSH sector

~~Disadvantages~~ Challenges of mainstreaming traditional medicine

① Lack of scientific evidence

② Possible superstition

③ People may stop scientific medicines.

④ Lack of certification mechanism (eg. Many homeopathy are scams)

⑤ Lack of acceptance among the educated class.

⑥ Will negatively affect the existing medicine sector. (eg. Lobbying possible).

⑦ Institutionalization of these systems has not been done.

Traditional Medicine offers huge scope towards SDG3 (good health) and should be gradually normalized.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

10. Nano Urea Liquid has the potential to transform farming in India and across the world by improving productivity while reducing environmental pollution and input cost. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

नैनो यूरिया लिक्विड में पर्यावरण प्रदूषण और इनपुट लागत को कम करने के साथ-साथ उत्पादकता में सुधार करके भारत और विश्व भर में कृषि कार्य को रूपांतरित करने की क्षमता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Nano Urea Liquid is a new intervention in the fertilizer sector by making concentrated and targeted delivery of Urea, at the root of plant.

How nano-urea can improve productivity in farming

1. Lesser input cost due to targeted use.
2. Minimum wastage of urea.
3. More effective absorption of urea by the plant.
4. Liquid form is easy to apply and maintain.
5. Improved yields.
6. Replenished soil quality.
7. Can be used in all soil types.
8. Increases profits for farmers.

How nano-urea can reduce environmental impact and input cost

① As it is a concentrated chemical, less amount is used.
② It is applied in targeted manner.
③ No excess urea, so reduced surface runoff of urea to water
⇒ Less marine pollution.
④ No need of standing water, so less emissions.
⑤ It is a safer and less harmful chemical.
⑥ Lower water requirements prevents groundwater depletion.
⑦ Chemical is easily absorbed so doesn't seep into the groundwater.

Thus, Nano Urea Liquid will play a great role in achieving FOOD SECURITY as well as DOUBLING FARMERS INCOME 2022.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

11. Discuss the domino effect of high crude oil prices on the Indian economy. Also, enumerate the measures that India can take in this context.
(250 words) 15

भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था पर कच्चे तेल की ऊंची कीमतों के डोमिनो प्रभाव की विवेचना कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत द्वारा इस संदर्भ में अपनाए जा सकने वाले उपायों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has pushed crude oil prices, which has consequences on all countries

Domino effect of high crude oil prices on Indian Economy

- → Imported inflation : will make fuel prices rise in India.
- → Burden on consumers and reduced consumption.
- → As crude oil is raw material in many industries, they will suffer (eg. Textiles)
- → Burden on government's fiscal resources will reduce spending.
- → May have to borrow money, leading to Fiscal Deficit.
- → Sales of vehicles will see temporary dip due to rise in fuel prices.

- Certain sectors may have to layoff employees.
- Depletion of India's FOREX reserves.
- Hamper overall economic growth.
- Reduced multiplier effect.
- Government may increase taxes.
- India may enter trade deficit.

Measures that can be taken in this context

- Diversify countries from where crude oil imported.
- Enter into long-term crude oil pricing agreements to prevent price fluctuations.
- Increase strategic reserves of petroleum and crude oil to prevent urgency.
- Enhance oil extraction capabilities.
- Look for alternative oil sources

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

like Shale Oil (eg. K-G Basin) and coalbed methane

→ Harness renewable sources of electricity (eg. Solar, Hydro)

→ Promotion of Electric vehicles (eg. FAME, NITI Aayog's Battery Swapping policy)

→ Increase forex reserves.

→ Incentivize NRIs to deposit currency in India.

→ Complete ongoing projects like TAPI pipeline.

→ Improve connectivity of own transport systems (eg. HVJ pipeline)

→ Improve refineries in India

Crude oil is an essential item and its prices can cause global slowdowns. Hence, we must be prepared for any shocks beforehand.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

12. The consistent high operating ratio of the Indian Railways is indicative of its incapability to generate high operational surplus. Explain the reasons behind this trend. Also, highlight the remedial measures taken by the government in this regard. **(250 words) 15**

भारतीय रेलवे का लगातार उच्च परिचालन अनुपात उच्च परिचालन अधिशेष सृजित करने में असमर्थता का संकेत है। इस प्रवृत्ति हेतु उत्तरदायी कारणों को स्पष्ट कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा किए गए उपचारात्मक उपायों को रेखांकित कीजिए।

Operating Ratio refers to the ratio of input costs to the revenue generated.

High operating Ratio indicates revenue generated is not adequate for profit-generation.

Reasons behind high operating ratio of Indian Railways

① Rail fares have been kept very low to allow common man to use railways.

② Cross-subsidization further reduces profits for the railways, and use of freebies (eg. Metro)

③ obsolete technology and machinery is ripe with inefficiencies.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(4) Lack of maintenance standards makes overall expenditure even costlier.

(5) Many trains are not at full utilization / passenger

(6) Low budgetary allocation to railways.

(7) Luxury trains (eg. Shatabdi) have very high cost of operation.

(8) Lack of innovation and R&D.

(9) Low political will to modernize.

Remedial measures taken by the government in this regard

(1) Rail gauges are being electrified to reduce fuel costs

(2) Cross-subsidization is being done away with.

(3) Modernization of railway systems to improve their efficiency.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

④ Strengthening the cadre of Indian Railway service and adding Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS)

⑤ Gradually allowing private sector investment and FDI.

⑥ Redundant or low-functioning train routes are removed.

⑦ Alternatives in form of cheap air travel to reduce burden on railways.

⑧ Hiring catering services to improve efficiency of services

⑨ Boosting demand of railways

⑩ Increased investment in railway technologies and foreign collaboration.

BIBEK DEBROY committee's recommendations can be used to improve profitability of the rail system

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

13. Micro food processing sector is the key driver of growth in the Indian economy as it encourages food processing innovation. In this context, state the challenges faced by the micro food processing sector and discuss how the recent initiatives taken by the government aim to address them.

(250 words) 15

सूक्ष्म खाद्य प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्रक भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में संवृद्धि का प्रमुख चालक है क्योंकि यह खाद्य प्रसंस्करण नवाचार को प्रोत्साहित करता है। इस संदर्भ में, सूक्ष्म खाद्य प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्रक द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों का उल्लेख कीजिए और चर्चा कीजिए कि किस प्रकार सरकार द्वारा हाल ही में प्रारंभ की गई पहलों का उद्देश्य इनका समाधान करना है।

Food processing is the value addition stage to harvest. It includes:

- PRIMARY → Cleaning, sorting, grading
- SECUNDARY → Packing, Fortification
- TERTIARY → Branding, Marketing.

Micro-food processing means these processes are carried out at a micro scale (eg. Small units)

Why Micro food processing sector is key driver of growth in Indian Economy

- → Increases profits to farmers.
- → Improves consumer choices and boosts demand.
- → Self-sufficiency in processed foods
- → Innovation (eg. Genetic Modification)

↓

Food Security and Nutrition (eg. MUKTOSHRI Rice → Iron)

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Challenges faced by Micro food processing sector

1. Lack of investment.
2. Low credit availability, since food processing is expensive.
3. Poor quality of food processing
4. Lack of modernization and use of technology.
5. Heavy post-harvest losses
6. Lack of skilled employees.
7. Low hand-holding support from government initially.
8. Poor storage facilities, like cold chain infrastructure
9. Issues in transport of agriculture
10. Climatic conditions aggravate perishability.
11. Low demand among poor people.
12. Lack of branding/marketing
13. Low competitiveness compared to big firms and international companies.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

How the recent initiatives taken by the government aim to address them

① Formalization of Micro food enterprises.
② Increased investment in cold chain infrastructure.
③ Promoting processed foods. (eg. Iron fortified rice)
④ Kisan Rails, Krishi UDAN, etc to improve transport.
⑤ From gate to market trucks.
⑥ Skilling of labourers.
⑦ Doordarshan channels to teach best practices of processing.
⑧ Helpline for guidance and handholding (eg. Vikaspedia)
⑨ Learning from international best practices.
⑩ Incentives in export to small players.

Microfood processing can completely transform agriculture sector.

Do not write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

14. Despite efforts by successive governments, equitable growth remains elusive and income inequality continues to persist in India. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

क्रमिक सरकारों के प्रयासों के बावजूद, न्यायसंगत विकास दुष्प्राप्य बना हुआ है और भारत में आय असमानता निरंतर बनी हुई है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Article 39(b) and 39(c) of Indian constitution (DPSP) seek to promote equitable growth but we still have a high PALMA RATIO and GINI coefficient.

Efforts by successive governments in this regard

- 11th and 12th FYP focused on INCLUSIVE growth
- contemplation of Universal Basic Income (UBI)
- Sab ka Saath, Sab ka Vikas motto.
- Imposition of Wealth tax and higher GST slab on luxury items
- Nationalization of Banks in 1969 and 1980 to improve credit availability.
- Aspirational Districts Program
- 14th and 15th Finance Commission emphasis on Income Distance
- IPPB's Financiration and PM Jan Dhan Yojana

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Indicators of income inequality:

- OXFAM report : Top 10% have more wealth than bottom 70%
- GINI coefficient shows inequality
- High PALMA ratio
- Dismal performance in Global Inequality Index
- Regional disparities

Why equitable growth is elusive and income inequality continues

1. Lack of economic growth.
2. Huge population of India.
3. Resource crunch (17.5% of world's population in 2% land)
4. Disasters and calamities have affected poor worse
5. Differential growth in various states (eg. BIMARU states)
6. Lacunae in poverty alleviation programmes (eg. Single-pronged approach)

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(7) Prevalence of corruption.
(8) Low political will and focus on populism.
(9) Geographical factors such as distribution of resources.
(10) High dependence on agriculture.
(11) Low growth of agriculture as compared to services sector.
(12) Lack of skills and education among poor.
(13) Digital divide aggravated inequalities.
(14) Land distribution is inequitable (eg. 86% farmers have less than 2 Ha land).
(15) Exploitation of labourers via cheap wages etc
(16) Lack of targeted approach to inequality.

An inclusive trajectory is crucial on India's march to prosperity of $5 trillion economy..

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

15. Stating the factors that determine the employment situation of an economy in the long-term, discuss the measures that are needed for India to address its unemployment problem. (250 words) 15

किसी अर्थव्यवस्था की दीर्घावधि में रोजगार की स्थिति को निर्धारित करने वाले कारकों का उल्लेख करते हुए, उन उपायों की विवेचना कीजिए जो भारत में बेरोजगारी की समस्या के समाधान हेतु आवश्यक हैं।

The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) has pointed out various issues in India's employment status.

Factors which determine employment situation of an economy in the long run

① Economic growth rate.
② Increase in job opportunities
(eg. Jobless growth)
③ Inflation levels trend
(eg. NAIRU : Non-accelerating inflation level of employment)
④ Fluctuations in business-cycles.
⑤ Whether potential GDP is reached or not.
(eg. Inflationary Gap or Recessionary Gap)

Don't write anything in margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

⑥ Structure and composition of economy (eg. Primary section dominance)

⑦ Composition of demography (eg. Working age population)

⑧ Industry-Academia mismatch or alignment

⑨ Adaptation of economy to global demand (eg. ICT)

⑩ Fiscal stimulus and capital expenditure (CAPEX).

Measures needed by India to solve unemployment issue

① Capital expenditure and fiscal stimulus (especially during lockdowns)

② Promote labour-intensive sectors (eg. Textiles - PM MITRA).

③ Upskilling of labourers.

④ Promote labour guarantee schemes like MGNREGA even in Urban areas.

⑤ Tackle disguised unemployment

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

in agriculture sector.

(6) Rural transformation (eg. Mission Antyodaya)

(7) Promote MSMEs. (eg UK Sinha Committee)

(8) Women empowerment via SHGs (Usha Thorat committee)

(9) Enhance cheap credit availability (eg. MUDRA)

(10) Support self-employment (eg. Stand Up India, Start Up India)

(11) Incubation centres for startups, and handholding.

(12) Promote cooperatives.

(13) Practice fiscal discipline as per ~~FRM~~ FRBM 2003.

(14) Create alternative sources of income in agriculture (eg. Animal Husbandry)

Employment levels are a must for an INCLUSIVE GROWTH.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

16. In view of the rapidly increasing socio-economic damage caused by disasters, integrating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into development planning requires an effective stakeholder engagement mechanism. Discuss. (250 words) 15

आपदाओं के कारण तेजी से बढ़ रही सामाजिक-आर्थिक क्षति को देखते हुए, आपदा जोखिम न्यूनीकरण (DRR) को विकास योजनाओं में एकीकृत करने के लिए एक प्रभावी हितधारक जुड़ाव तंत्र की आवश्यकता है। विवेचना कीजिए।

Disaster Risk Reduction entails taking pre-emptive steps to minimize possibility of a disaster as well as minimize the potential damages

Rapidly increasing socio-economic damage caused by disasters

1. Damage to lives and property
2. Failure of agriculture
3. Affects food security
4. Damage infrastructure
5. Psychological damage
6. Rise in number of cyclones
7. Emerging threats like Medicines, Locust attacks.
8. Higher economic losses in recovery.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into development planning requires effective stakeholder ~~[illegible]~~ mechanism

① community is the first-responder as well ~~as~~ has best understanding of region.

② Decentralized planning is key.

③ Due to geographical, climatic, topographical variations, there cannot be one-size-fits-all approach.

④ Retrofitting of buildings requires engagement of construction sector.

⑤ Standard Operating Protocols (SOPs) need to be disseminated via Media.

⑥ NDRF/SDRF should be compatible with all other agencies.

(7) Government schemes like MGNREGA should have DRR imbedded in the construction of assets

(8) Insurance mechanisms need to be diversified
ex. Catastrophe Bond,

(9) Public must be aware and prepared, via mock drills, information dissemination etc.

(10) Constructions in disaster prone areas should be avoided.
(ex. CRZ rules)

(11) Local level institutions should be better prepared.

(12) Agriculture has to be made disaster-resilient.

(13) Evacuation routes and connectivity routes should be pre-defined.

SENDAI Framework and CDRI prioritize DRR to minimize losses and impact.

Don't write anything this margin
(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

17. Provide an account of the existing carbon trading mechanisms in India. Also, discuss the significance of an efficient carbon trading market in the country and state the challenges that currently exist. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में मौजूदा कार्बन व्यापार तंत्र का विवरण प्रस्तुत कीजिए। साथ ही, देश में एक कुशल कार्बन व्यापार बाजार के महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए और वर्तमान समय में विद्यमान चुनौतियों का उल्लेख कीजिए।

Carbon trading refers to trading of credits which allow the release of CO_2 during the industry's operations.

Carbon trading mechanisms in India

① Offsetting : CO_2 released can be offset by afforestation or sequestration.

② Carbon credits : The credits can be traded / sold on the market.

③ Joint development mechanism
A polluting firm can compensate by engaging in sequestration projects with other firms

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Significance of an efficient carbon trading mechanism

1. Allows for higher growth and development.
2. It is environmentally sustainable
3. companies having excess credits can earn profit by trading
4. Incentivizes lower emissions.
5. Overall impact on environment is compensated for.
6. Promotes carbon sequestration and eco-friendly activities.
7. Government can earn revenue (eg. carbon tax).
8. There is synergy in the development and conservation of environment.
9. Promotes renewable and clean sources of energy.
10. Self-reliance (Avoids need to buy credits from other countries)

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Challenges to Carbon trading in India

① Pollution levels are already very high.
② Leads to concentration of emissions around industrial areas.
③ Non-transparent carbon trading mechanism.
④ corruption and favoritism
⑤ Bribery related to getting more credits.
⑥ Inefficient mechanism leading to huge delays.
⑦ Promotes deforestation and emissions.
⑧ Lack of climate financing.
⑨ Institutional mechanism is not there.
⑩ Environmental clearances (eg. EIA) and regulatory hurdles.

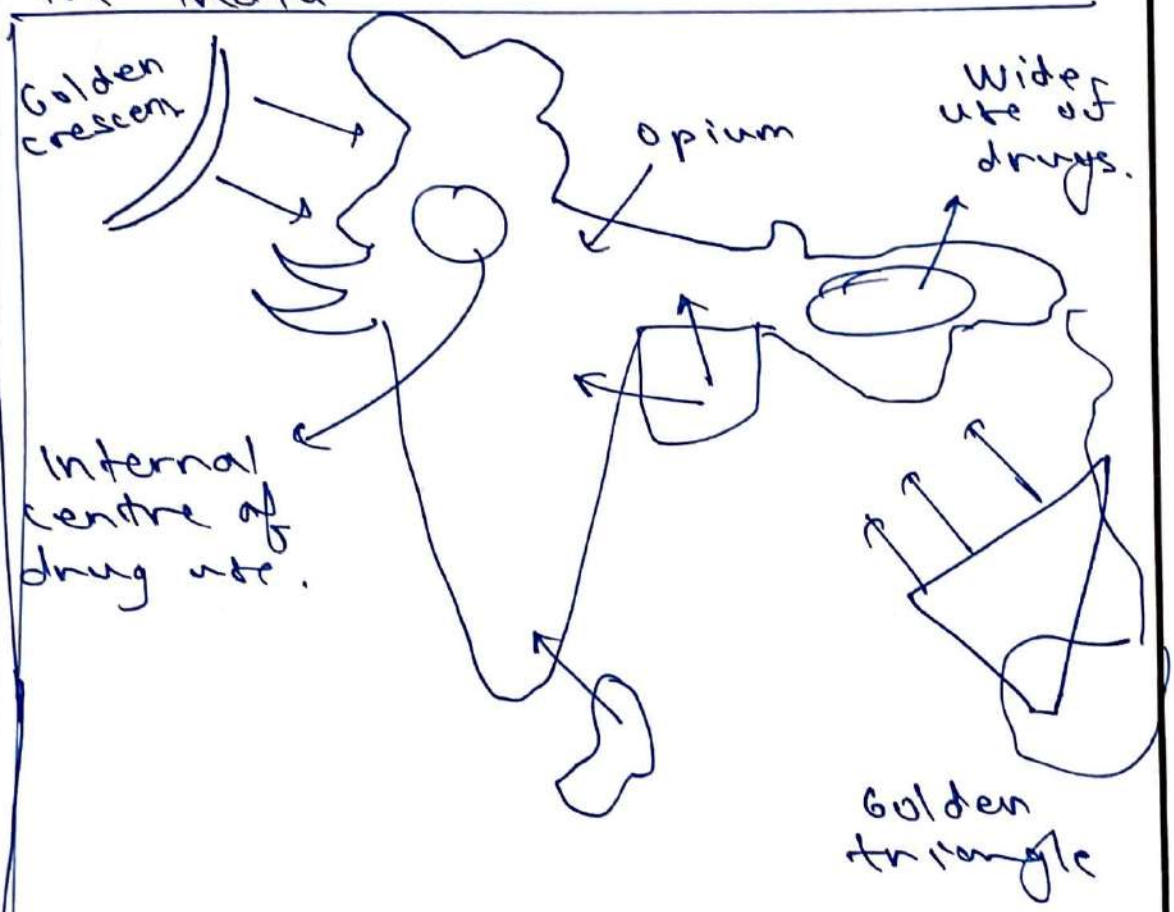
Carbon trading can help phase down ~~[illegible]~~ emissions by 2070.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

18. The menace of drug trafficking in India has been on a rise due to a mix of factors, both internal and external. Discuss. Also, state the challenges posed by drug trafficking to India's national security. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में ड्रग ट्रैफिकिंग का खतरा आंतरिक और बाह्य दोनों कारकों के समन्वय के कारण बढ़ रहा है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत की राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के समक्ष ड्रग ट्रैफिकिंग से उत्पन्न चुनौतियों का उल्लेख कीजिए।

NCRB data has shown a huge rise in drug use and trafficking in India



Map : Drug trafficking from internal and external

External factors for rise in drug trafficking

① Golden ~~for~~ crescent and Golden Triangle.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

② Transnational Crime and Terrorism funding via drugs.
③ Organized Crime and Hawala transactions.
④ Increased production in neighbouring countries.

Internal factors for rise of drug trafficking

① Rise in demand.
② Punjab and neighbouring areas have huge production.
③ Societal issues causing youth to move to drugs.
④ Use of medicinal drugs as substance abuse.

Challenges posed by Drug trafficking to India's National Security

① Social issues like addictions and loss of productivity.
② Rising Law and Order issues.
③ Increased sources of terror

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

funding.

④ Organized crime networks have gained prominence.

⑤ Drug-dealers rising in number.

⑥ Indoctrination along with drug sale
(ex. In North East / Naxalism)

⑦ Economic losses due to huge Black Money.

⑧ Money Laundering via drugs

⑨ Inability to track because of individual level transactions.

⑩ Border management issue due to frequent infiltrations

⑪ Border districts often become hostile to armed forces due to all the trafficking.

The UN Convention on Drugs and Psychotropic substances should be ratified and implemented.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

19. The Andaman and Nicobar islands' strategic significance in the Indian Ocean region (IOR) has been underplayed by India's policy of 'masterly inactivity and benign neglect'. Critically discuss. **(250 words) 15**

हिंद महासागर क्षेत्र (IOR) में अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह के रणनीतिक महत्व को भारत की 'कुशल अकर्मण्यता और सौम्य उपेक्षा' की नीति के तहत कम करके आंका गया है। समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands ~~have~~ ~~been~~ are very strategically located in the Indian Ocean, giving India huge opportunities in the Indo-Pacific region.

Strategic significance

- Huge access to the Indian Ocean
- very close to Thailand, Cambodia etc.
- Shipping / trade routes like Malacca are very close
- Bay of Bengal can be easily covered entirely.
- Can act as a check against China's String of Pearls.

How Andaman and Nicobar Islands' significance in IOR has been underplayed by India's 'Maritime inactivity' and Benign Neglect

① Lack of development in the islands.

② No infrastructure or social sector developed in the islands.

③ Poor connectivity with the mainland.

④ No political offices present for decision making.

⑤ Mostly inhabited by tribals

⑥ India has not harnessed the location of the islands.

⑦ Negligible military presence in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(8) India's focus has always been on the mainland.

(9) Not tapped water resources or shipping potential in the islands.

(10) Political focus on the East Asia (eg. Look East) has so far neglected the Andaman and Nicobar islands.

(11) No ongoing strategic/military projects in the islands.

The Andaman and Nicobar islands can give India a huge dominance over the IOR, and hence must be prioritized. They must be SOCIALLY MAINSTREAMED into the Indian society.

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20. India has recently commissioned the world's first large International Liquid-Mirror Telescope (ILMT). How will the newly commissioned telescope aid in India's astronomical observations and research? **(250 words) 15**

हाल ही में, भारत ने विश्व का पहला विशाल इंटरनेशनल लिक्विड-मिरर टेलीस्कोप (ILMT) स्थापित किया है। यह नवनिर्मित टेलीस्कोप खगोलीय पर्यवेक्षणों और अनुसंधान में भारत की किस प्रकार सहायता करेगा?

Space exploration has been the focus of world and India's academia for decades. The newly commissioned International Liquid-Mirror Telescope is expected to play major role.

How the ILMT will aid India's astronomical observations and research

① clearer, high-definition photos of space will give better understanding.

② Longer-range will allow the study of regions of space not yet explored.

③ Will enable distant study of the Sun and Moon with

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much better precision.

④ Black Holes and other mysterious phenomenon can be studied.

⑤ Astronomical insights can help in understanding of the weather and natural phenomena.

⑥ Real-time inputs can help us prepare for any disasters/calamities.

⑦ Space research institutions can immensely expand scope of activities.

⑧ Better and more job opportunities in space research.

⑨ Impetus to the STEM field.

⑩ Opens more avenues for private sector participation

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(11) Makes India amongst the leading players in space research and exploration.

(12) Dim objects which were difficult to observe, can now be seen.

(13) New phenomena of interest, like Blue straddler stars can also be understood.

(14) Allows observation and monitoring of Space Station

(15) vastly improves our Space Situational Awareness (SSA).

(16) can help prevent clashes with Debris (Kessler Syndrom) eg. ISRO's Project NETRA.

(17) Boosts ISRO's capabilities and preparedness.

Thus, the ILMT has opened gates to much better understanding of space and the Universe.